PSN2

EFFECTIVITY AND SAFETY OF TACALCITOL IN PSORIASIS VULGARIS IN SPANISH PATIENTS

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OBJECTIVES: To analyse the effectivity and safety of tacalcitol in real daily conditions. **METHODS:** An epidemiological, observational, prospective and multicenter study of a cohort of patients with mild to moderate Psoriasis vulgaris has been performed. Treatment with tacalcitol ointment (4 mg/g) was prescribed. Anthropometric and demographic characteristics of patients were recorded in addition to percentage of affected area and previous and current treatments. A lesion was selected as target for evaluation, of symptoms (erythema, desquamation and thickness) by a scale from 0 (absent) to 4 (maximum intensity of symptom). At follow-up (30 and 60 days) symptomatology and appearance of adverse events were evaluated. Psoriasis Area Severity Index (PASI) was calculated. **RESULTS:** Eight hundred twenty-one patients with mild to moderate Psoriasis vulgaris, (45.67% were men and 45.33% were women, mean age 43.59 ± 15,48 years) were included. After 2 months of treatment, patients showed a decrease of mean percentage of affected area of 7.83 ± 12.3 (from 15.97% ± 16.02% to 8.14 ± 10.59). PASI decreased from 10.11 ± 7.89 to 3.00 ± 3.79 ($p < 0.01$). Percentage of patients without symptoms increased up to 85.44% for erythema, 93.11% for desquamation and 96.16% for thickness. Six adverse events were reported (1% of sample). Seventy-eight percent of investigators and 80% of patients evaluated effectivity of treatment as satisfactory. **CONCLUSIONS:** Tacalcitol was effective in symptomatic treatment of psoriasis. Treatment achieved improvement on affected area and intensity of symptoms as well. Excellent tolerability of tacalcitol was corroborated by the low rate of adverse events reported.

SKIN DISORDERS—Cost Studies

PSN3

MANAGEMENT AND SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS (AD) IN FRANCE: THE ELIPANEL STUDY

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the management and socio-economic consequences of AD on patients and parents of children with AD in France. **METHODS:** Retrospective crossectional study in a representative national sample of patients suffering from AD has been conducted between March and June 2002. One hundred children and 90 adults have been recruited from a representative panel of 4012 individuals of the general population. Data was collected on aspects of the disease, medical resource use and Quality of Life (QoL). **RESULTS:** On average, the mean time spent with AD during the last year was 131 days; 26% of patients reported having symptomatic AD all the time, the other patients had 5.5 flares on average. Mean duration of the last flare in the overall sample was 21 days. Ninety percent of the patients consulted a physician during the last year for their AD. Sixty-two percent of adults had usually seen a general practitioner (GP) and/or a dermatologist (57%). Fourty-one percent of adults and 42% of children had seen a GP exclusively. None of the patients interviewed were hospitalized for AD during the last 12 months. We estimated the annual medical and non-medical cost of AD in France at €128 million per year, physician consultations accounting for 59% of this cost. AD impairs significantly the patients and parents QoL. Adults declared having no relieve from it (40%), being worried about their appearance (36%), finding it hard to relax (33%), having no self-confidence (24%). Parents reported having no control over the disease (53%), are worried about the future of their children (17%) and 13% said AD created much tension in the family. **CONCLUSION:** This unprecedented study shows that AD signs and symptoms affect patients for one-third of the year on average, producing a significant socio-economic burden on the patients and their family

PSN4

ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF TACROLIMUS OINTMENT VERSUS CURRENT CARE IN MODERATE TO SEVERE ATOPIC DERMATITIS

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OBJECTIVES: Topical steroids are the corner-stone of current treatment for atopic dermatitis (AD), a chronic fluctuating inflammatory skin disease. However, steroids carry a risk of local and systemic side effects limiting their long term use and effectiveness. The objective was to assess the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of the new topical immunomodulator Tacrolimus in moderate to severe AD. Tacrolimus has shown significant clinical improvement, maintained with long term intermittent treatment up to four years. **METHODS:** A Markov model was developed in MS-Excel. Model health states represent severe, moderate, mild, and virtually cured AD as defined by the Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI). Based on prevalence data, 82% start with moderate, 18% with severe AD. The model simulates monthly severity fluctuations. Transitions among health states were calculated from two 1-year observational trials (Tacrolimus n = 93, current care n = 120). Tacrolimus consumption was obtained from the clinical trial, other resource utilisation from a two-round Delphi consensus panel (n = 8). Unit costs from the Belgian health care payers perspective were applied. Effects are expressed in "disease controlled days", defined as days with mild or virtually cured AD. The time horizon was from 1 (basecase) to 3 years.